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SONGS OF EXILE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE HEBREW OF JEHUDAH

HALEVI.

SONG OF ISRAEL TO GOD.

My Love! hast thou forgotten
Thy rest
Upon my breast¹?
And wherefore hast thou sold me
To be enslaved for aye?
Have I not followed thee upon the way
Of olden time within a land not sown?
Lo! Seir and Mount Paran—nor these alone—
Sinai and Sin—yea these
Be all my witnesses.
For thee my love was ever,
And mine
Thy grace divine;
And how hast thou apportioned
My glory away from me?
Thrust unto Seir, pursued, sent forth to flee
Until Kedar, nor suffered to abide;
Within the Grecian fiery furnace tried;
Afflicted, weighed with care,
With Medea's yoke to bear;—
And is there any to redeem but thee?
Or other captive with a hope above?
Thy strength, O Lord! grant of thy strength to me!
For I give thee my love.

¹ *Song of Songs*, i. 13.